

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 02764 071758Z

53

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
----- 063363

P 071735Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5419

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2764

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO THE SECRETARY

E.O. 116521 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, US

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S PROJECTED VISIT
TO U.S.

REF: TUNIS 2575

1. MINISTER OF INTERIOR TAHAR BELKHOJA CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE LATE AFTERNOON MAY 7 TO DISCUSS "ON PERSONAL BASIS" PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S UPCOMING VISIT TO U.S. BELKHOJA SAID THAT HE HAD SEEN BOURGUIBA JUST BEFORE LATTER LEFT FOR SWITZERLAND AND HAD FOUND PRESIDENT CONCERNED AT OUR INABILITY CONFIRM DATE FOR HIS AGREED-UPON VISIT TO THE U.S.

2. I CAREFULLY EXPLAINED SITUATION TO BELKHOJA, EMPHASIZING THAT WHILE JUNE 5 AND 6 HAD BEEN DATES TENTATIVELY SET FOR VISIT, PRESIDENT NIXON'S PLANS CONTINUED TO BE UP IN AIR. I MENTIONED TO BELKHOJA TWO POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION SUBJECT, OF COURSE, TO WHITE HOUSE APPROVAL: (A) POSTPONING VISIT UNTIL SECOND WEEK IN JUNE: OR (B) POSTPONING VISIT UNTIL AUTUMN. I ALSO STRESSED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S PLANS MAY NOT BE DEFINITELY KNOWN UNTIL LATE THIS MONTH.

3. BELKHOJA SAID THAT IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT BOURGUIBA
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TUNIS 02764 071758Z

WOULD NOT RPT NOT WISH TO POSTPONE VISIT UNTIL AUTUMN AND

THAT PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE SECOND WEEK IN JUNE.
BELKHOJA DID NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT HUMID WASHINGTON SUMMER
CLIMATE SHOULD BE IMPORTANT
FACTOR IN MAKING DECISION AND HE EXPRESSED VIEW
THAT BOURGUIBA COULD STILL MAKE HIS RENDEZVOUS IN CHINA ON
14TH IF WASHINGTON VISIT WERE SET FOR JUNE 10 OR 11. HE
FELT VERY STRONGLY THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO
LAY ON VISIT FOR SOME DATE IN JUNE.

4. BELKHOJA AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS "SPEAKING PERSONALLY"
SINCE HE DID NOT WISH TO TREAD ON TOES OF FOREIGN MINISTER
CHATTI BUT IN VIEW OF OUR GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS HE WANTED TO
COMMUNICATE HIS VIEWS BASED ON HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH
BOURGUIBA. EVEN IF DEFINITE DECISION RE PRESIDENT
NIXON'S PLANS CANNOT BE MADE FOR ANOTHER WEEK OR SO, HE,
BELKHOJA, PREFERRED TO WAIT AND NOT PROPOSE OR CONSIDER
AT THIS TIME ALTERNATIVE OF VISIT NEXT AUTUMN.

5. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THAT BELKHOJA IS PROBABLY ACCURATELY
REFLECTING BOURGUIBA'S VIEWS. BELKHOJA HAS TALKED TO
BOURGUIBA MORE RECENTLY THAN CHATTI WHO, AS DEPARTMENT
WILL RECALL, HAD PROPOSED FOR CONSIDERATION ALTERNATIVE OF
VISIT IN FALL. IF WE ARE UNABLE TO LINE UP VISIT FOR
BOURGUIBA TO U.S. SOMETIME IN JUNE AND IF, IN ADDITION,
PRESIDENT NIXON BYPASSES TUNIS IN ANY POSSIBLE TRIP HE
MAY MAKE TO MIDDLE EAST, I AM AFRAID THAT PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S
NOSE WILL BE OUT OF JOINT. AS I HAVE INDICATED EARLIER,
A BYPASS OF TUNIS BY PRESIDENT NIXON IS MANAGEABLE IN TERMS
OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, BUT I FEAR THAT TO ADD TO THIS
A POSTPONEMENT OF BOURGUIBA'S VISIT TO U.S.
BEYOND JUNE WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE.
I PROPOSE THAT SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN
TO ALTERNATIVE DATE FOR VISIT OF JUNE 10 - 11.
SEELYE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TUNIS02764
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740110-0452
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740566/aaaachme.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: TUNIS 2575
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S PROJECTED VISIT TO U.S.
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, TS, US, (BOURGUIBA, HABIB)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005